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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

PATENT

Applicant: D. Shah et al.

Serial No.: 09/891,983

Filed: June 26, 2001

For: METHODS FOR THE
SIMULTANEOUS DETECTION OF HCV
ANTIGENS AND HCV ANTIBODIES

Case No.: 6821.US.01

Examiner: unknown

Group Art Unit: unknown

I hereby certify that this paper
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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for
Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination, please preliminarily amend the
subject application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace page 22, line 6 - page 24, line 7, with
the following:

A plasmid containing nucleotides 14-5294 of the H
strain of HCV (N. Ogata, H. Alter, R. Miller, and R.
Purcell, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 88:3392-3396 (1991)) in
pGEM-9Zf(-) (Promega Corp., Madison, WI) was partially
digested using DNase I by the following method in order to
obtain random epitope-encoding fragments. Five µg aliquots
of plasmid DNA were incubated at 15°C for 10 minutes in 0.5
M Tris-HCl pH 7.6, 10 mM MnCl₂ in the presence of anywhere

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